



# Highlights

of the 31st

# Annual Meeting

*November, 1955*

COMMITTEE PROGRAM  
No. 2

November-December  
1955

Abundance is a blessing that belongs to all Canadian people. The problems of abundance, in time, become the problem of all.

Issued by  
SASKATCHEWAN  
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Regina, Sask.



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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **of the 31st Annual Meeting**

### **1955**

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The thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool was held in Regina, November 1st to November 12th. The Wheat Pool delegates, representing all the shareholders, reviewed the business in all departments for the year ending July 31st, 1955. The Balance Sheet was approved, and the figures tell a story of the benefits which farmers enjoy when working together. However, back of the Balance Sheet will be found the aims and objectives and the understanding and loyalty of the men and women who work for the success and progress of their own business.

#### **Saskatchewan Wheat Pool**

The Assets of the Company are owned and controlled by the shareholders on the basis of one member, one vote, and each shareholder's equity is built up through delivering his grain to his own Pool elevator, and his livestock to the Livestock Pool. The 166 elected delegates represented the shareholders at this Annual Meeting.

The assets include 1,139 Country Elevators together with annexes, bins, agents' cottages, etc., three terminal elevators, Head Office building, the Modern Press, Vegetable Oil Plant and Flour Mill, Stockyards, repair parts and supplies, investment and memberships, accounts receivable, together with a large number of miscellaneous items and working capital of \$6,217,808.39. The net value of these assets as at July 31st, 1955 is shown in the books at \$31,219,130.82. Based on present day replacement costs, this book value is very low.

The direct investment of the shareholders in the organization consists of membership fees, \$141,227.00; elevator deductions \$16,-244,612.52; commercial reserves \$8,753,-

781.31; Livestock Credits \$100,052.69; a total of \$25,239,673.52.

During the year, 5,039 new members joined the Organization.

#### **Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves**

The policy of revolving deductions has been continued, and up to July 31st, 1955, Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves totalling \$16,249,582.07 have been purchased and re-allocated to current member-patrons who have delivered grain to Pool Elevators. The sum of \$1,618,275.00 has been provided from this year's earnings for transferring deductions, bringing the total to \$17,867,857.07.

#### **Paid to Member-Patrons—1925-1954**

From 1925 to 1954 the sum of \$45,875,-184.36 has been paid out in cash or credits to the member-patrons since the Pool was organized.

#### **Country Organization Department**

This Department includes Wheat Pool Committees, delegates, fieldmen, travelling superintendents, agents, livestock Pool personnel, all of whom work closely together and have a responsibility to further the interests of the Pool and membership through co-operation.

During the year, District Representatives attended 2,975 meetings of all kinds with an estimated attendance of 134,000. At 722 of these motion pictures were shown. In addition, there were personal visits to 4,376 farmers, 2,012 business men, and 3,417 Pool Elevator Agents. The Fieldmen also conducted 78 one-day co-operative schools, Citizenship Days and Rallies. Five one-week co-operative schools were held with a total attendance of 5,000 young people.

The Country Organization Department again worked with the University of Saskatchewan in organizing a Leadership Course and Regional Agricultural short courses (six weeks) under the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Program. Plans are already

under-way to continue these courses during the coming winter.

The Country Organization Department has also assisted in strengthening local co-operative associations, Credit Unions, and other community projects, and has worked with agricultural representatives in the 4H Club program.

The work of promoting the sale and use of Pool Co-op Flour has been carried on throughout the year, and in this work many Wheat Pool Committees and Womens' Co-operative Guilds took an active part. Guidance has also been given to local Committees in organizing and assembling co-operative livestock shipments.

### **Wheat Pool Committees and Committee Conventions**

During the year, 1,091 Wheat Pool Committees reported re-organization out of a total of 1,111 active Wheat Pool Committees in the Province. The Committees continue to be the strength in Country Organization work. They are the important voice through which the membership is informed on the progress of the Wheat Pool in all Departments. During the year, the sum of \$26,490.00 in remuneration was paid on application to Committees who reported holding four or more meetings.

The Annual program of 124 Committee Conventions was attended by 7,418 people.

The Agenda provided for the reports of Committee work during the year, a review of the Wheat Pool's business operations and policies. The operations of the Canadian Wheat Board and the International Wheat Agreement were also outlined by the Director. "Discussion Groups" were continued with satisfactory participation. Many resolutions were passed, and all these help to form Pool policy.

### **Country and Terminal Elevators**

Deliveries to Pool Country Elevators last season amounted to 132,939,000 bushels as compared with 150,039,000 bushels in the previous season. The average delivery per elevator amounted to 116,511 bushels. For the

past season, 46.05% of all grain delivered in Saskatchewan was delivered through Pool elevators, as compared to 44.38% in the previous year.

Pool terminals handled 81,300,086 bushels which amounts to 25.47 per cent of the total western grain unloading at the Lakehead. During the year, 12,462,625 bushels had to be diverted to other Terminals.

In 1954-55, \$3,170,222.89 was made available to pay for the programme of building, machinery and work under construction. When the Annex Building Program is completed in December, the total Country Elevator storage capacity will be about 80 million bushels. Construction costs are up 10 per cent this year.

Providing additional storage space is not the complete answer to the farmers' delivery problem. The volume of grain which can be handled through an elevator now depends almost entirely on the distribution of box cars at the point. In view of experience in recent years, as well as at the present time, it is plain to see that if growers are to have an opportunity of making maximum use of the elevators and terminals which they own, the method of distributing box cars will have to be changed.

### **Port of Churchill**

From August 1st, 1954 to July 31st, 1955 Pool Elevators shipped 5,105,000 bushels to Churchill, which was 42.197% of all grain shipped to this port. The Wheat Board's offerings at Churchill during the present season have been at 10 cents per bushel over the Ft. William price.

Carlot shipments from the Prairies to Churchill are usually only from those points having the freight rate preference and on C.N.R. lines.

### **Flour Mill**

The Mill operated for 283 days, and 588,027 barrels of flour were produced. The total increase in Domestic and Export sales was 129,909 barrels over last year. Sales of Mill Feeds amounted to 19,052 tons.

Domestic sales have improved and today, with a top quality of milling wheat, it is hoped to increase export sales in a very strong competitive market. After paying all expenses of operation, there was a net surplus of \$58,969.21 compared to a net loss of \$4,636.10 last year. Capacity of the Mill is 2,000 barrels per day.

### **Vegetable Oil Plant**

The Vegetable Oil Plant operated 60 days on flax seed, and 78 days on rape seed. The amount of flax processed in 1954-55 was 7,937,920 pounds or 883,340 pounds less than in the previous year; 9,567,150 pounds of rape seed were processed on a custom basis compared to 17,295,000 pounds crushed in 1953-54. After providing for all operating costs the Vegetable Oil Plant showed a net loss of \$4,211.88 as against a surplus of \$38,137.97 in 1953-54. It is hoped the Plant will operate to full capacity in 1955-56.

### **Printing and Publishing Division**

The Western Producer has a circulation of 159,099 which is an increase of 8,096 over the previous year.

This paper continues to provide strength and support to farm programs, and to express opinions on policies and practices which affect the well being of the farmers in Western Canada. The Womens' and the Youth Sections are very popular.

After providing for depreciation on fixed assets and paying all operating costs, there was a net operating loss of \$189,435.51. Delegates gave very careful consideration to the financial problems of the Modern Press and The Western Producer.

### **Livestock Division**

Yards are owned and operated at North Battleford, Regina, Swift Current, and Yorkton, and agencies at Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. At St. Boniface the Wheat Pool is part owner of Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited. The number of cattle and calves marketed co-operatively was 202,039, which is 42.85% of the total provincial marketings. Hogs marketed co-operatively were 168,147 head, or 32.32% of the total provincial marketing;

18,467 sheep and lambs were sold through co-operative channels.

The auction method of selling livestock is optional, and is in operation at all market centres. At the present time, this method is the popular with the seller, and will remain so, as long as the bidding is strong and the buyers are active on a market. Experienced co-operative livestock men are present on all markets where their knowledge of grades and values is available to the producers.

The gross value of all livestock handled co-operatively in 1954-55 was \$28,185,795.53 as compared to the total of \$27,984,925.54 in the previous year. After making provision for depreciation and for Dominion and Provincial Income Taxes, the surplus of \$109,700.89 was transferred to Reserve Account.

### **Pool Insurance**

Space will not permit a report on Canadian Pool Agencies Limited, which shows a net surplus of \$55,075.51. Pool Insurance Company had a net surplus of \$621,553.03. The report of Canadian Co-operative Producers Limited is included in the 31st Annual Report, a copy of which will be mailed to all members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

### **Surpluses for the Year**

The Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st July, 1955 showed a surplus of \$4,481,852.31. This was allocated as follows:

Excess Charges Refund.....	\$3,313,550.00
Provision for Income Tax (Estimated).....	520,000.00
Transferred to Reserve Account.....	648,302.31

The patronage refund works out at 2½ cents per bushel on all grain delivered to Pool Elevators by Pool members during the year ending 31st July, 1955, and was allocated on the following basis: 1¼c per bushel to be paid in cash; 1¼c per bushel to revolve deductions and to be credited to the persons entitled to the patronage dividend. Patronage dividend at rate of per head of cattle 48c calves, 18c hogs, sheep and lambs 12c, to be credited to the member-patrons.

### **Members' Opinions in Action**

Resolutions sent in during the year from committees or from Wheat Pool Public Meet-

ings, together with resolutions from Committee Conventions and District Delegates Meetings are made available to the Resolutions Committee. This Committee is made up of one delegate from each district who was elected at the Annual District Meeting of Delegates last December. The Resolutions are examined by the Resolutions Committee and in due course the resolutions they select are presented to the General Meeting at the time the topic referred to is before the Meeting. Any delegate, of course, has the right to offer an Amendment or present a new Resolution. In this manner, democratic policy is formed, guidance is given, and progress made.

The Thirty-first Annual Report is one of the most important documents in Canada. In it will be found particulars on the Western Agricultural Conference, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the International Wheat Agreement, interviews with Governments, etc.

In this day and age, most of the world's trade is carried on through Governments dealing with Governments, or through Government Agencies and Boards, who issue import and export licenses so that finances can be arranged for much needed food and raw materials. In all transactions the interest and welfare of the grower must be considered and protected.

Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Mr. Geo. McIvor, Chairman Canadian Wheat Board, and Mr. D. G. McKenzie, Chief Commissioner, Board of Grain Commissioners, attended and addressed the meeting and answered questions pertaining to marketing policies and marketing of wheat and other grains.

The ability of your organization to influence opinion at the national and international level is directly in proportion to the degree of support of the co-operative movement by individual members.